

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 OES-07 OPIC-03 XMB-02
AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08
FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00
PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-05 ITC-01 TRSE-00
PRS-01 SP-02 SOE-01 OMB-01 DOE-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 /101 W

-----116018 212106Z /41

R 211456Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2903

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, SP US
SUBJECT: JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: STATE 299380

1. WE DISCUSSED PROPOSED JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA TRANSMITTED REFTEL WITH MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS CARLOS GAMIR PRIETO ON
DECEMBER 19, NOTING THOSE ITEMS IN WHICH SPANISH
AMBASSADOR HAD EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST. GAMIR
ASKED THAT, FOR COSMETIC PURPOSES, SOYBEAN OIL ITEM BE
CHANGED TO READ "SPANISH INTERNAL CONSUMPTION OF SOYBEAN
OIL." WE REPLIED THAT CHANGE WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM BUT
THAT WE DID WISH TO DISCUSS GOS MEASURES TO LIMIT DOMESTIC
CONSUMPTION. GAMIR UNDERSTANDS IMPORTANCE OF ITEM AND
AGREED. GAMIR DID NOT HAVE FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT
AT THIS TIME BUT SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS PROPOSED AGENDA
WITH INTERESTED MINISTRIES AND WOULD REPLY ASAP.

2. RE TIMING OF JECM, WE MENTIONED TO GAMIR THAT SPANISH
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EMBASSY HAD CONFIRMED JANUARY 16 DATE. GAMIR NOTED THAT
SPANISH EMBASSY HAD NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THIR INSTRUCTIONS
AND THAT, WHILE UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTING THAT
ASST SEC KATZ WILL BE ABLE TO DEVOTE ONLY ONE DAY TO JECM,
THE PREFERRED ARRANGEMENT FOR GOS WOULD BE FOR SUB-GROUP
MEETINGS TO BE HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 16 THROUGH WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 18, WITH PLENARY HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 19,

LEAVING FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER SUB-GROUP MEETINGS, IF NECESSARY. WE NOTED PROBABLE DIFFICULTY IN REARRANGING ASST SEC KATZ' SCHEDULE TO ACCOMMODATE THIS PLAN. GAMIR APPRECIATES THIS POINT BUT NOTED THAT UTILITY OF SUB-GROUP CONVERSATIONS WOULD BE GREATER IF THEY PRECEED, RATHER THAN FOLLOW, PLENARY, IF THIS IS POSSIBLE, AND THAT MEETINGS OF SUB-GROUPS PRIOR TO 16TH WOULD LENGTHEN PERIOD OF VISIT BY INCLUSION OF WEEKEND, WHICH IS NOT FEASIBLE FOR SPANISH PARTICIPANTS. GAMIR HAS REQUESTED SPANISH EMBASSY TO RAISE THIS WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

3. GAMIR UNDERSTANDS CLEARLY THAT ANY AD HOC GROUPINGS WOULD NOT HAVE ANY LIFE OF THEIR OWN. HE NOTED THAT GOS APPROACH IS PRAGMATIC, WITH AD HOC SUB-GROUPS BEING CONSTITUTED ONLY WHEN APPROPRIATE.

4. GOS WILL PROVIDE NAMES AND TITLES OF SPANISH PARTICIPANTS WHEN KNOWN.

5. COMMENT: WE, OF COURSE, DO NOT KNOW WHAT FLEXIBILITY, IF ANY, THERE IS IN ASST SEC KATZ'S CALENDAR DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 16. OUR GENERAL DESIRE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE GOS IS BALANCED BY THE CONCERN THAT SCHEDULING OF THESE DAYS OF SUB-GROUP TALKS (NEEDED IN PART BECAUSE OF LIMITED SIZE OF GOS DEL) MIGHT BE MORE THAN NEEDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND HAVE THE EFFECT OF RAISING GOS EXPECTATIONS WHICH, IF NOT FULFILLED AT LEAST IN PART, COULD RESULT IN A MORE DIFFICULT PLENARY AND FORMULATION OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE. WE HAVE AN OPEN MIND WITH RESPECT TO THE BALANCE OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS. PLEASE ADVISE. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID10326
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770476-0527
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771232/aaaabanw.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ba2c16ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 299380
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 160306
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING
TAGS: ECON, SP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba2c16ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009